

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *Over the past 18 years, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership emerged as a visionary initiative, championed by local leaders, and brought to fruition through collaborative efforts by the City government, Alexandria City Public Schools, and dedicated nonprofit partners; and*

WHEREAS, *mentoring has been proven to improve mental health, build self-esteem, foster community engagement, and increase academic performance, and to decrease court-involvement; and*

WHEREAS, *the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership is dedicated to enhancing key Developmental Assets in youth by connecting them with caring adults, instilling a sense of purpose, boosting self-esteem, and demonstrating a community that cares. This proclamation underscores our City's unwavering support for mentoring programs, ensuring positive and impactful experiences for children and young adults, mentors, and the community at large; and*

WHEREAS, *the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership ardently upholds the vision that every child and young adult in our community who needs a caring adult relationship shall have access to one, with a commitment to ensuring the availability of well-trained mentors and first-rate, evidence-based mentoring programs; and*

WHEREAS, *in the year 2023, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, through collaborative efforts of its 13 partner programs, 730 volunteer mentors have served 1,384 youth and young adults, fostering positive growth, and providing guidance and inspiration; and*

WHEREAS, *this month's commencement of **Mentor University: A Free College for Caring Adults** marks a significant milestone, offering courses, trainings, and initiatives designed to empower compassionate adults with the skills necessary to nurture our next generation of leaders and innovators; and*

WHEREAS, *the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership has strategically invested in a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA Member, dedicated to enhancing the capacity of mentoring programs, to ensure the implementation of equitable standards across all partner programs, and to facilitate the expansion of mentoring initiatives throughout the City.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of January as:

“ALEXANDRIA MENTORING MONTH”

in the City of Alexandria, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, and affirm our continued dedication to fostering mentorship, recognizing its profound impact on the well-being and success of our youth, and encouraging the entire community to actively participate in the advancement of mentorship for the betterment of our city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of January 2024.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

